GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2126
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
LOSSES TO CROPS DUE TO INSECTS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that crops worth crores are damaged every year due to insects;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered as a result thereof, State-wise;

(c) the quantity of pesticides being used per hectare in each State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the damage and easy availability of pesticides?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): It has been estimated that crop losses due to insects including pests, diseases, rodents and weeds range between 10 to 30% every year depending on climatic and environmental conditions. However, during kharif, 2007 and rabi, 2006-07 seasons, the insect pest/disease situation, through out the country remained normal i.e. below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) and there was not much crop loss. However, minor incidence of some insects pests/ diseases in some parts of the country was reported which was timely managed by adopting suitable control measures by farmers as advised by Central as well as by State Departments of Agriculture.

(c): As per details available from States/UTs the annual pesticide use in all crops in the country was 39773.78 MT (Technical grade) during 2005-06. The data on quantity of pesticides being used per hector in each State is not collected as use of pesticides varies from crop to crop and depending on pest incidence. Consumption of total pesticides state wise is at annexure I.

(d): Government of India, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle of plant protection strategy. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 State and one UT under the scheme `Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India`. The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio- control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at Grass Root Level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs).

Further, Government of India issues advisories to the State Department of Agriculture/ Horticulture from time to time to constitute survey teams for pest monitoring so that timely control measures could be taken by the farmers. For easy availability of quality pesticides to the farmers, State Governments are being advised to strictly enforce the provisions of the Insecticides Act 1968. Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee also registers new pesticides for making them available to the farmers. Frequent review of availability of pesticides in the Zonal Conference of States is also done to ensure adequate supply of quality pesticides.